

1. In a network environment that includes a notification mechanism configured to dispatch notifications over a network to designated devices in response to detected events, a method for the notification mechanism notifying a user of an event in a context sensitive manner, the method comprising the following:

an act of detecting an event which requires a notification be dispatched to the user;

an act of upon detecting the event, accessing a current context of the user;

an act of identifying one of a plurality of possible notification methods to use in order to dispatch the notification based on the current context of the user; and

an act of causing the notification to be dispatched to the user using the identified notification method.

2. A method in accordance with Claim 1, further comprising the following:

an act of supporting a plurality of response actions that may be desired in response to the notification.

3. A method in accordance with Claim 2, further comprising the following:

an act of receiving a user-selection of at least one of the response actions.

4. A method in accordance with Claim 3, wherein the act of receiving a user-selection of at least one of the response actions comprises the following:

an act of receiving a user-selection of at least one of the response actions, the user-selection being issued by the user in the same manner as the user received the notification.

5. A method in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the plurality of possible notification methods include at least a voice notification method and a visual notification method.

6. A method in accordance with Claim 5, wherein the act of identifying one of the plurality of possible notification methods comprises the following:

an act of identifying the voice notification method based on the current context of the user.

7. A method in accordance with Claim 5, wherein the act of identifying one of the plurality of possible notification methods comprises the following:

an act of identifying the visual notification method based on the current context of the user.

8. A method in accordance with Claim 5, wherein the visual notification method includes a text notification method.

9. A method in accordance with Claim 8, wherein the text notification method includes a notification method that uses text messages of limited size.

10. A method in accordance with Claim 9, wherein the notification method that uses text messages of limited size includes a notification method that uses Short Message Service messages.

11. A method in accordance with Claim 8, wherein the text notification method includes an instant messaging notification method.

12. A method in accordance with Claim 8, wherein the text notification method comprises Wireless Application Protocol text push notification methods.

13. A method in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the act of identifying one of a plurality of possible notification methods comprises the following:

an act of accessing a set of rules that define what notification method to use given the current context of the user.

14. In a network environment that includes a notification mechanism configured to dispatch notifications over a network to designated devices in response to detected events, as method for the notification mechanism notifying a user of an event in a context sensitive manner, the method comprising the following:

an act of detecting an event which requires a notification be dispatched to the user;
and

a step for sending a notification to the user that is appropriate for the user's circumstances.

15. A method in accordance with Claim 14, wherein the step for sending a notification to the user that is appropriate for the user's circumstances comprises the following:

an act of upon detecting the event, accessing a current context of the user;

an act of identifying one of a plurality of possible notification methods to use in order to dispatch the notification based on the current context of the user; and

an act of causing the notification to be dispatched to the user using the identified notification method.

16. A computer program product for use in a network environment that includes a notification mechanism configured to dispatch notifications over a network to designated devices in response to detected events, the computer program product for implementing a method for the notification mechanism to notify a user of an event in a context sensitive manner, the computer program product comprising one or more computer-readable media having stored thereon the following:

computer-executable instructions for detecting an event which requires a notification be dispatched to the user;

computer-executable instructions for accessing a current context of the user upon detecting the event;

computer-executable instructions for identifying one of a plurality of possible notification methods to use in order to dispatch the notification based on the current context of the user; and

computer-executable instructions for causing the notification to be dispatched to the user using the identified notification method.

17. A computer program product in accordance with Claim 16, wherein the one or more computer-readable media further have stored thereon the following:

computer-executable instructions for supporting a plurality of response actions that may be desired in response to the notification.

18. A computer program product in accordance with Claim 17, wherein the one or more computer-readable media further have stored thereon the following:

computer-executable instructions for detecting the receipt of a user-selection of at least one of the response actions.

19. A computer program product in accordance with Claim 16, wherein the computer-executable instructions for identifying one of a plurality of possible notification methods comprise the following:

computer-executable instructions for accessing a set of rules that define what notification method to use given the current context of the user.

20. A computer program product in accordance with Claim 16, wherein the one or more computer-readable media are physical storage media.

21. In a network environment that includes a notification mechanism configured to dispatch notifications over a network to designated devices in response to detected events, a method for the notification mechanism notifying a user of a conditional event in an audible manner, the method comprising the following:

an act of detecting a conditional event which requires a notification be dispatched to the user; and

an act of causing an audible notification to be dispatched to the user using a telephone network.

22. A method in accordance with Claim 21, wherein the act of causing an audible notification to be dispatched to the user using a telephone network comprises the following:

an act of dispatching a text message to a telephone server, the text message including instructions to dispatch a voice message to the user.

23. A method in accordance with Claim 22, further comprising the following:

an act of the telephone server establishing a telephone connection between the user and telephone services.

24. A method in accordance with Claim 23, wherein the telephone services include a voice print authentication service, wherein the method further comprises the following:

an act of the telephone server receiving a voice print authentication from the user;

an act of the telephone server authenticating the user as the intended recipient of the notification based on the voice print; and

an act of dispatching an audible form of the notification to the user over the telephone connection.

25. A method in accordance with Claim 23, wherein the telephone services include a text-to-speech conversion module, wherein the method further comprises the following:

an act of the text-to-speech conversion module converting the text message into an audible notification; and

an act of dispatching the audible notification to the user over the telephone connection.

26. A computer program product for use in a network environment that includes a notification mechanism configured to dispatch notifications over a network to designated devices in response to detected events, the computer program product for implementing a method for the notification mechanism notifying a user of a conditional event in an audible manner, the computer-program product comprising one or more computer-readable media having stored thereon the following:

computer-executable instructions for detecting a conditional event which requires a notification be dispatched to the user; and

computer-executable instructions for causing an audible notification to be dispatched to the user using a telephone network.

27. A computer program product in accordance with Claim 26, wherein the computer-executable instructions for causing an audible notification to be dispatched to the user using a telephone network comprise the following:

computer-executable instructions for dispatching a text message to a delivery component, the text message including instructions to dispatch a voice message to the user.

28. A computer program product in accordance with Claim 27, wherein the one or more computer-readable media are physical storage media.